



From August 2019 (Volume 103)





August 2019.

It seems trite, and strangely English, my commenting on the weather, but it has been more unsettled than we remember it. Our philosophy is to make plans and carry them out irrespective of what the forecast says...Lynn & I have had some great days that way and also the 'lads' walks seem to largely be on great days with the surrounding days being impossibly bad.

Enjoy life as it runs its course...there must be a truism there. We certainly live by that creed...As the old saying goes...."You're a long time dead."

Larnie has just returned from Majorca and we have seen those great photos where they both look so great (4 years with Jake but we have only met him once!!) . Beau and Peachy are in Harris now with Angela and Mary so hopefully this gale and rain is not hitting them up there.

DP is fixing his towed-caravan on the way back from the south of the UK as there was suspension problems there. I hope to hear his decision re Nepal next week. If he can't commit to it I fully understand and Lynn will come as last reserve and I know she will love (*most*) of it.

Tammy and Ben are planning future breaks with Ben working out his notice so many changes in their life ahead. We wish them so much luck..they deserve it. His new position sounds wonderful.

Lynn goes from strength to strength and looks fantastic. Running round the park while I'm at the gym and swimming so both of us don't feel too bad when we enjoy eating out. We notice many (if not..'most') of the pictures are of eating all round the world...my email is possibly the most apt one I could have chosen.

We have just come back from the allotment (5 years) and although we possibly can not live on our produce, it is great fun watching the slugs eat our last few dwarf beans.? Blackberries and potatoes are doing well and asparagus and the fruit trees are establishing if not bountiful...but we enjoy it and it now looks well tended and tidy.

Lynn's eyes are in need of care and after consultation we have booked her in for a cataract procedure with new special lenses so possibly she may not need glasses after that. Here's hoping

Future travel plans include Croatia next month, Nepal in November, and a few UK short breaks planned.

We have booked Chichester (to see Oklahoma) with a B&B overnight stay. We will also plan a couple of nights in north Devon with a night in Somerset on the way back.

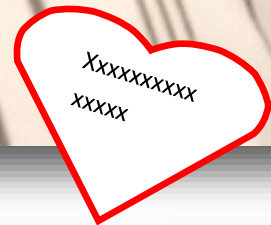
I have done a lot of walks with 'the lads' and also shorter ones with the 'splinter group: Norman Cyril, Stephen, Gerald, myself and (hopefully Ivor once his ankles are better). Cyril, Viv, Lynn and myself have recently done a longish Thames walk...or to be more honest—it is a shortish Thames walk with frequent coffee and lunch stops. Started at Vauxhall to Battersea/Battersea to Putney Bridge/Putney Bridge to Hammersmith and many stop off en-route. Probably going eastwards from next week...watch this space. The walks are a constant giggle.

Talking of giggles, we have had a couple of bbq's here in the last couple of weeks and managed to avoid rain and in fact sat outside late into the night. We've planned another day-time one with Evie and Jim (just returned from Spain) plus Gina and Stephen from allotment.

We've been to the theatre and cinema a few times and a very mixed bag...some fantastic and some totally abysmal.

All in all an eventful and really fun time

August 10th 2019



At Pinner Hall...a lovely beamed building we enjoyed celebrating Steve and Joan's Golden wedding and there were lots of 'old' friends there

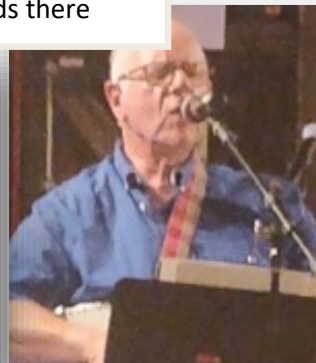




Photo History

Burnham On Crouch with Gerald & Cyril.hot day..13 km walk...It lies on the north bank of the River Crouch and is one of Britain's leading places for yachting. These shots are impressions from our walk



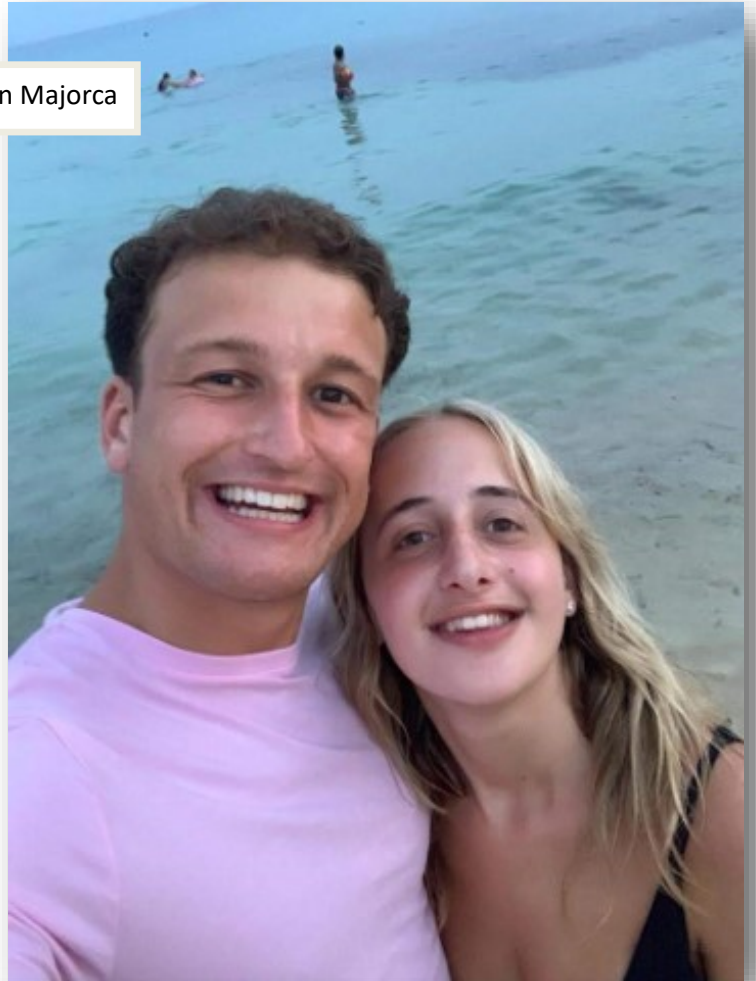
The Rio Cinema is a purpose-built, two-screen, 280 seat cinema in Burnham on Crouch, Essex. The building dates from 1931. The Burnham Rio is one of the cheapest cinemas in the county.





Photo History

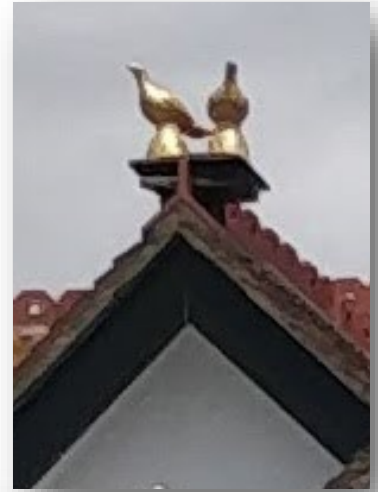
August 2019..Larnie & Jake in Majorca







I love eccentricity and this house in Palmers Green has gold animals in the garden with purple-sprayed palms and unusual blue mirrors etc. Even gold birds adorn the chimney pots...really fascinating





This is now complete and the photos were taken two days prior to opening to the public. I will take some photos later when it is more established but I think it is a fantastic project



- Thames21, working with Enfield Council, are creating a 0.3-hectare wetland in Broomfield Park, North London. The main objective of the project is to improve water quality in the nearby Pymmes Brook, a tributary of the Lower Lea that is one of the most polluted catchments in the UK. A surface water sewer running through Broomfield Park drains an urban area of 34 hectares and is rich in pollutants. The project will divert the flow from the sewer pipe into the newly constructed wetland, thereby attenuating the pollution before it reaches the brook.
- The project will also realise a reduction in local flood risk as c. 2,500 m³ of water can be stored in the wetland and released slowly over time. The programme of work will engage the local community, for example, in planting up the wetland and, ultimately help to enhance the public amenity value of the Park.

Coca-Cola European Partners' Edmonton manufacturing site is located about 10 minutes away from the Broomfield Park site, and employees will be invited to volunteer their time with the local project in due course.

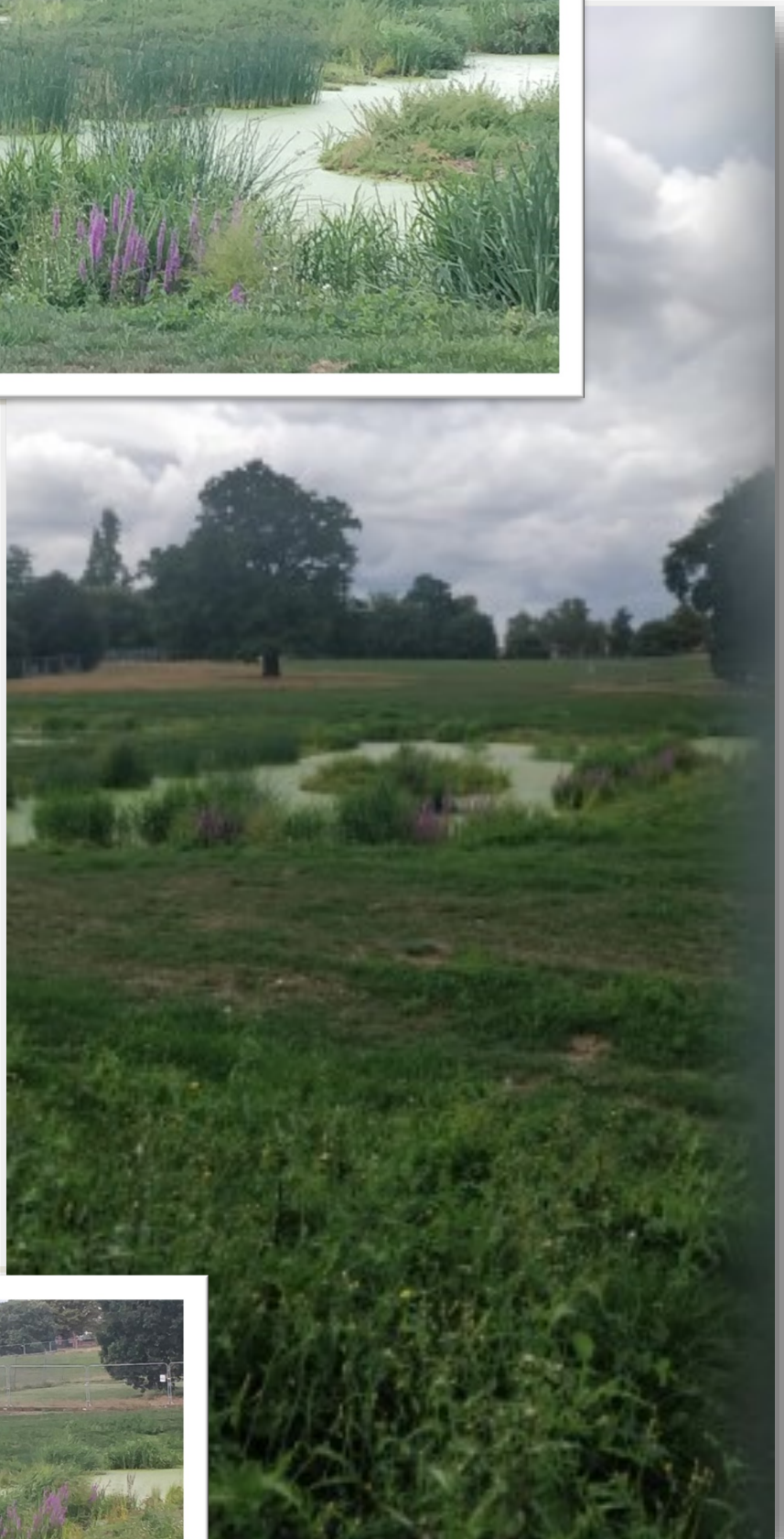




Photo History



Lynn helped me by picking blackberries, beans and horseradish and cutting the grass. We've had our allotment for 5 years now and both really enjoy it





XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
RMK





Photo History



Cyril, Stephen, Gerald and I spent a brilliant day walking at Mersea Island in August





Mersea is that strange mixture of a traditional fishing and sailing area but has been 'discovered' by some folk and there is a mixture of older folk who have always enjoyed the pubs and fish restaurants and newer people who also enjoy it and the mix works well.





Photo History



The Captain's Shed has really gone 'upmarket'. You now get your own glasses (and three of them actually matched). They now have two towel rolls on each table. Obviously, still no chips and Mum is still no faster at prepping the oysters...but bless her..she is a real sweetie





Photo History

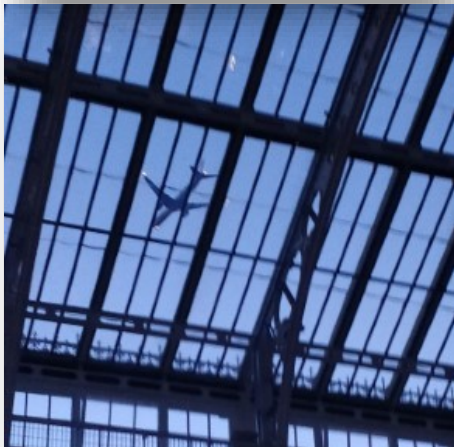


The celestial vibrant blue master-piece *Sapphire Star* welcomed us as we entered through Victoria Gate.



At Kew Gardens, illuminated under the evening sky, Chihuly's artworks featured pieces never seen before in the UK. The sculptures transformed the gardens and glasshouses into a contemporary outdoor gallery space.

In a Kew Gardens first, the Temperate House was home to a brand new, specially designed sculpture inspired by the cathedral-like space where it was featured with ethereal music that was totally wonderful



Even the constant planes on the direct Heathrow flight path did not distract from the beauty





Unique art installations were situated across the grounds. These were in the Shirley Sherwood Gallery of Botanical Art.

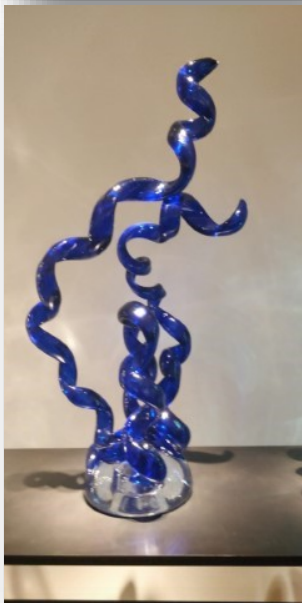




Photo History



The illuminated glass sculptures at night looked amazing





The watching people seem to enhance this shot





A great walk from Putney Bridge Station along the South Bank through Barnes to Battersea with Neil and Viv..August 2019





Photo History



Sometimes unusual shots of everyday items look great. These are crispy breads illuminated behind the counter in Princi's in Wardour Street

This is their tag line...Eat with your nose.

Eat with your eyes.

Eat with your hands.

Eat with us.



Daunt Books was founded in 1990 by James Daunt in the beautiful Edwardian premises at 83 Marylebone High Street in London – originally built for antiquarian booksellers Francis Edwards in 1910. At the heart of the shop is a long, galleried main room which has as its focus a beautiful arched window partly glazed with stained glass. The intention then, as now, was to arrange books principally by country, whatever the nature of the book – fiction or non-fiction, biography, history, guide or novel





Photo History

Braughing Parish spans the Quin valley and is crossed by a large number of footpaths, byways and bridle paths



Walk around Braughing in Hertfordshire with Cyril and Gerald ending at The Axe and Compasses in this delightful village in August 2019





Amazing how the undergrowth envelopes the ugly dumped cars and looks attractive





Photo History



Lynn went to Brent Cross with Jenny Dunn while I had a coffee with Ronnie and we walked in Golders Hill Park. After years of not seeing them



A few very hot days in late August and we walked from Hampton Court along the Thames Path to Richmond via Kingston with Cyril and Viv.





Photo History



The Boaters was a great riverside pub and we sat in the shade and enjoyed a really nice BBQ lunch

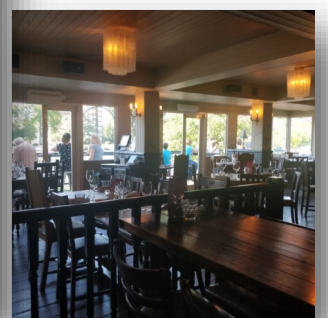




Photo History



How old are yew?

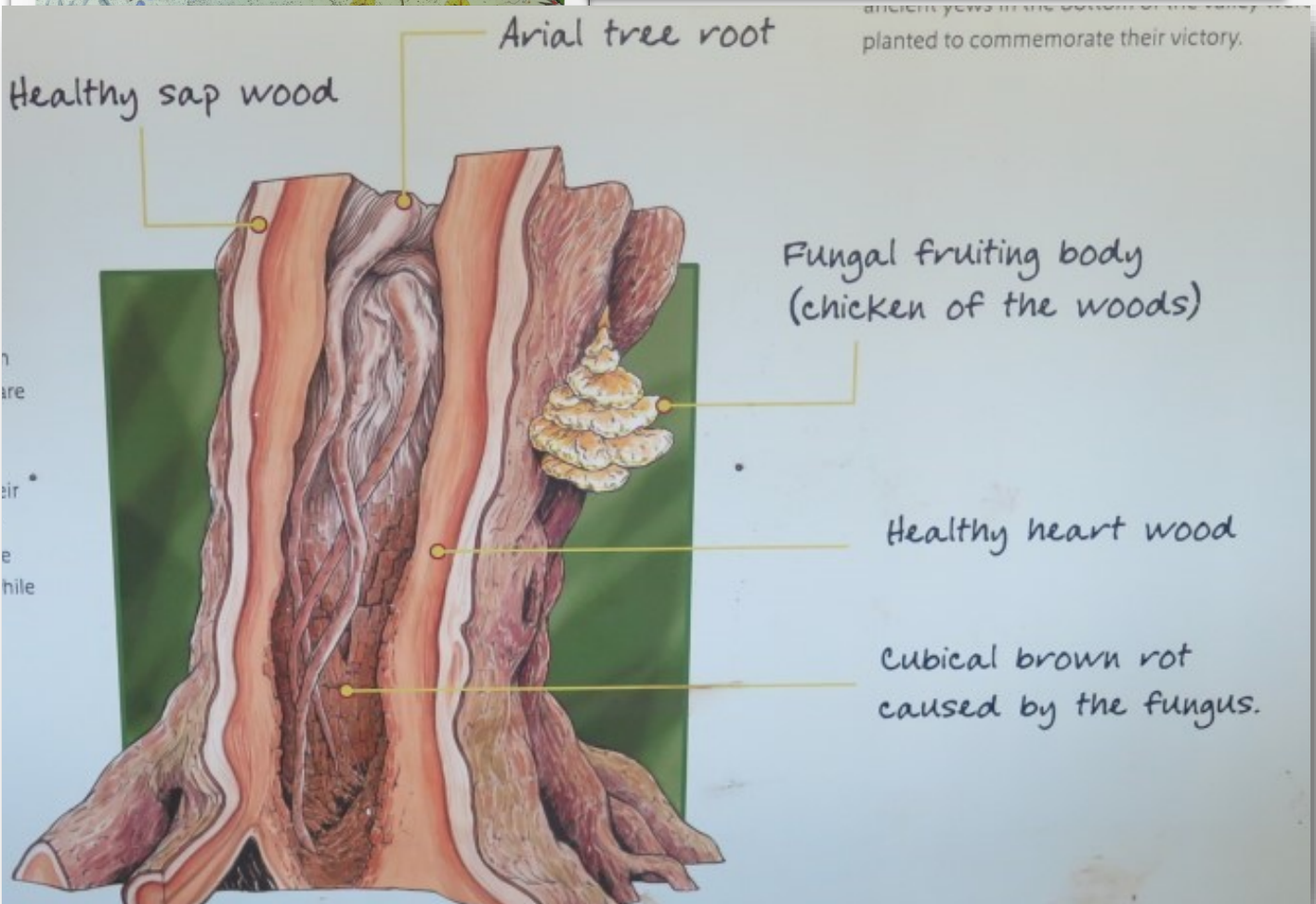
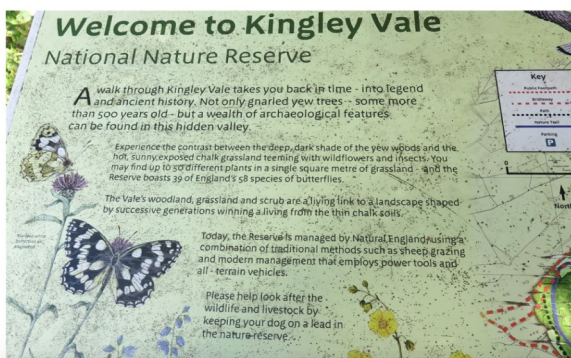
Actually, nobody knows how old the yew trees are. The middle of all the old trees has been rotted away by the 'chicken of the woods' and other fungi, so there are no growth rings to count to establish their exact age. What we can say is they must be at least 500 years old and are probably much older.

Veteran trees like these can survive having their insides rotted away as only the outer portion of a tree trunk is alive. Being hollow allows the trunks to flex and bend in stormy weather, while a solid tree is likely to snap and die.

At the end of August we stayed overnight in Chichester and our B&B was a converted old school which was fantastic and David and Peter were perfect hosts.. They recommended a walk in Kingley Vale which was not well known but had some of the world's oldest elm trees and we were mesmerised by them so no apologies for all the following pictures



This old yew had fallen and someone had written "good-bye old hero" on the side. Rather fitting we thought





The spirit of this old yew seemed to be so real



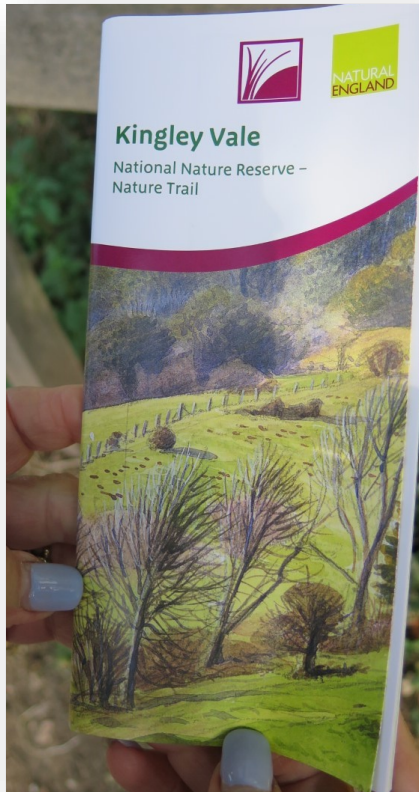
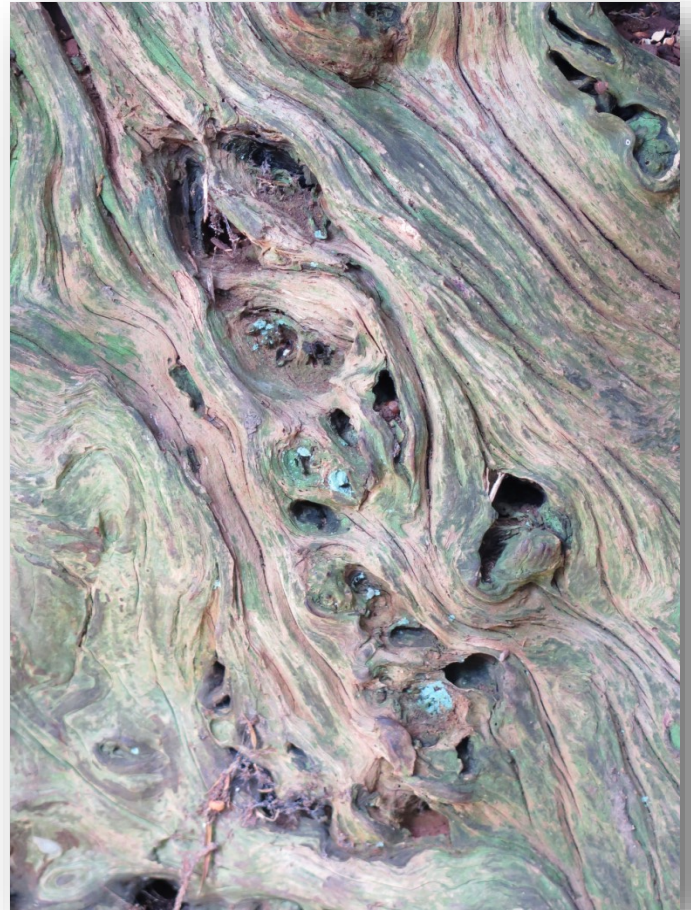




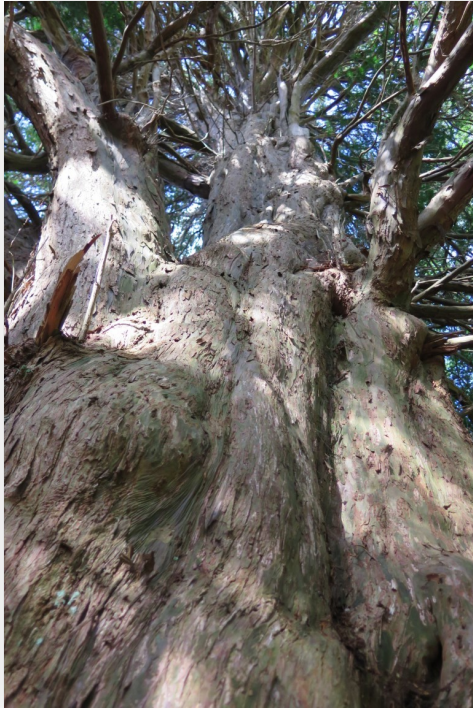
Photo History

Amazing textures on the yew bark









The maze of branches, the colours and textures were so inspiring







Photo History



Sometimes, the beauty of nature in its simplest forms are very photogenic and I hope you agree that these shots capture their majesty





Photo History





Photo History





Photo History



These colours and textures are all completely natural and the horse looked ready to gallop away





Photo History



Once out of the yew tree area we came into a wild seed meadow and climbed the steep hill to see the sea in the far distance. A hard climb, but so worth it



On one page ...all the things I love....

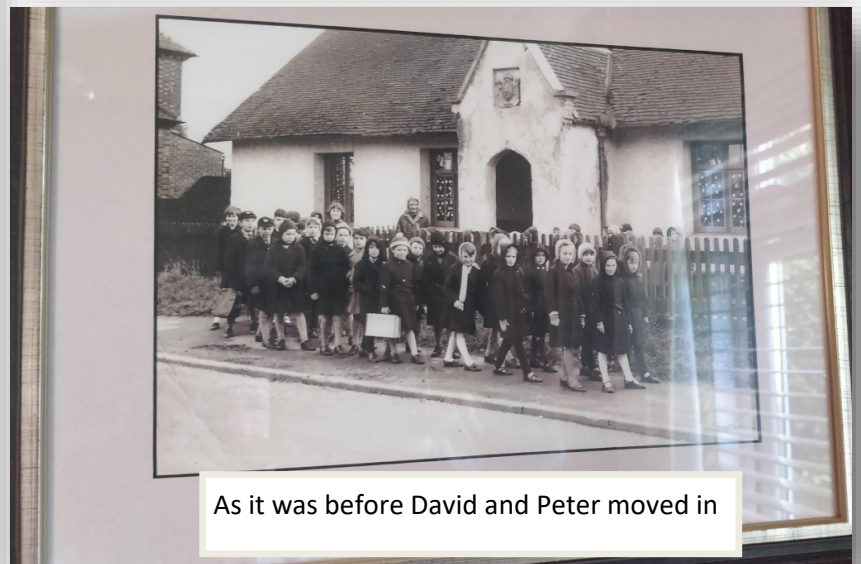




Photo History



The Old School House, Chichester was a great overnight stay



As it was before David and Peter moved in



We enjoyed a lovely lunch at Samphire, East Whittering and then waked along the shingle above the sandy beach





Photo History





Fascinating street art on the side of a building in Chichester



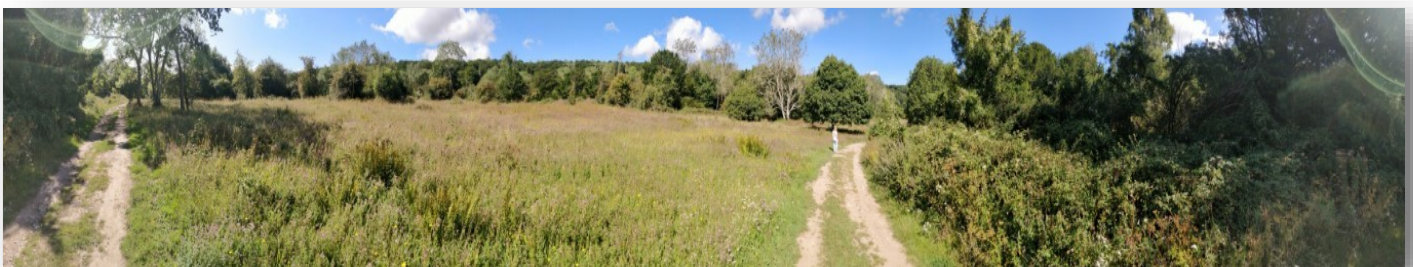
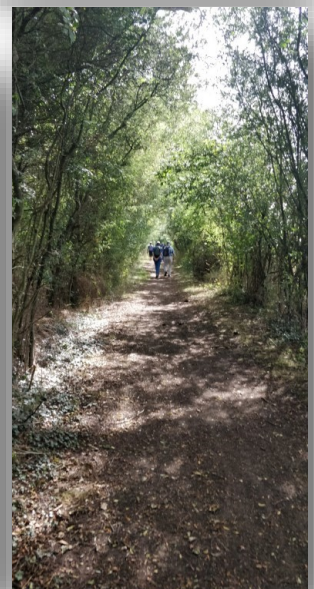




Photo History



The Lad's Walk around Ardeley near Stevenage in Hertfordshire in Sept 2019

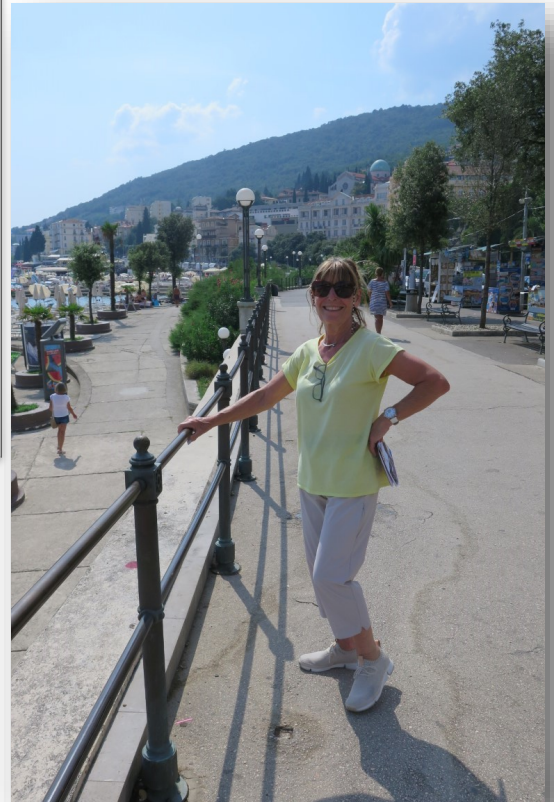




Sept 2019 Lynn and I flew from Stanstead to Rijeka in Croatia for a 4 night stay in Opatija (in the Milenij Hotel ..part of the Amadria Park Group)

We took two buses from the airport to Opatija and the hotel was beautifully situated right opposite the girl with the bird iconic waterside statue. . We walked the 10 km sea promenade to Volosko which was a wonderful walk

Home made chocolates and a bottle of wine welcomed us to our room



Around the hotel





...sometimes the coffee with
whipped cream is so good that
Lynn gets right in there with it!!!





Photo History



View from our room and
on the hotel terrace

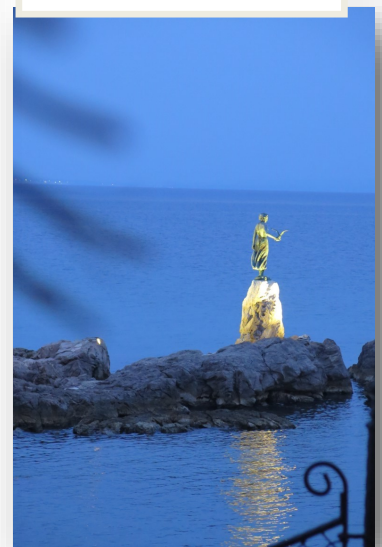




Photo History



This male choir sang Croatian folk songs just below the terrace by the small old harbour one night and it was totally magical



The iconic 'Lady with Bird' is a favourite spot day and night



This is a view from high in the hills above the coastline and shows the small harbour, our hotel and the famous statue





Photo History

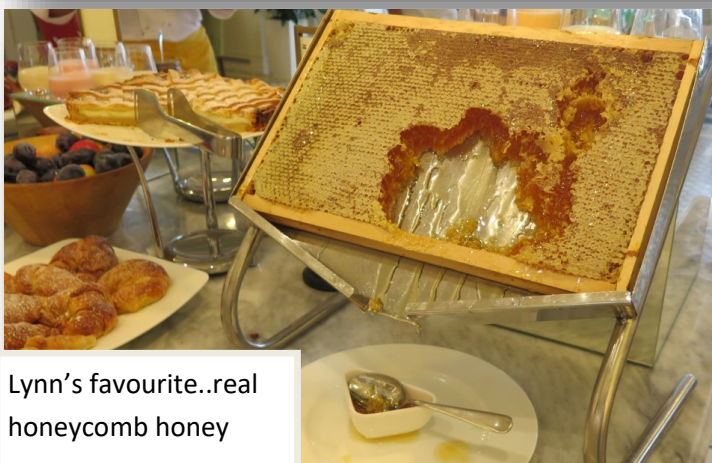


The Breakfast Buffet was superb and sitting on the terrace overlooking the sea and waves was so enjoyable

The chef created great omelettes



prosciutto crudo ham was cut as you waited



Lynn's favourite..real honeycomb honey





Opatija is on the Adriatic Sea and was a fashionable resort in the 19th century. It's dotted with Habsburg-era villas. The Lungomare is a promenade that stretches about 10 kms and we walked it as it snaked along the coastline, offering views of the town and neighbouring islands

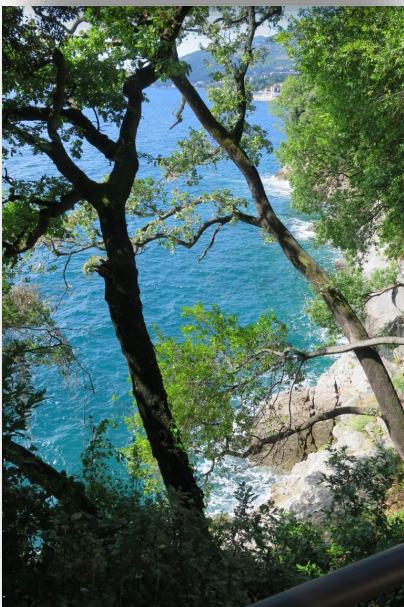
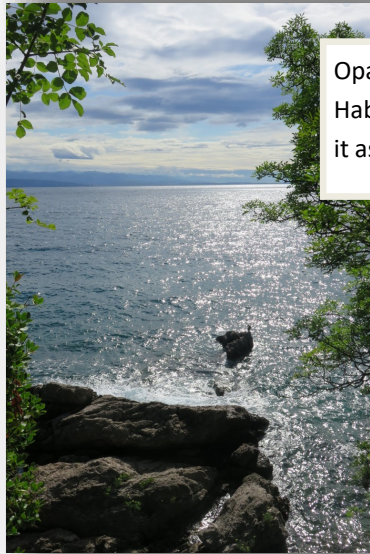




Photo History



A really special
short break

